

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 IGA-01 AGR-05 OMB-01

PC-01 USIA-06 INR-07 DODE-00 INT-05 COME-00 SR-02

ORM-01 NEA-09 /072 W

----- 090876

R 100630Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2630

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI FOOD REQUIREMENTS

REF: A) STATE 28192 B) MOGADISCIO 1871, DEC 74

C) MOGADISCIO 186

1. EMBASSY FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT US CONTRIBUTION TO SOMALIA'S GRAIN NEEDS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE REFUGEE VICTIMS MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP MEET THEIR EMERGENCY NEEDS.

2. FIGURE OF 120,000 MT CITED REF A IS UN'S ESTIMATE (AND, WE BELIEVE, THAT OF GSDR AS WELL) OF SOMALIA'S TOTAL GRAIN NEEDS THROUGH SIX-MONTH PERIOD ENDING AUGUST, 1975. THIS FIGURE IN TURN IS DERIVED FROM UN'S ESTIMATE THAT OVER PAST YEARS, SOMALIA'S TOTAL GRAIN REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN AND ARE PW APPROXIMATELY 240,000 MT ANNUALLY FOR ENTIRE POPULATION OF MORE THAN 3 MILLION.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT PLEDGES OF 63,(*2 MT IN GRAIN CITED REF C

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ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATE AT PRESENT TO MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS OF

STRICKEN REFUGEE POPULATIONS WHOSE NUMBERS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 250,000 - 300,000 THROUGH AUGUST. IF SPRING RAINS FAIL, IT MAY BE THAT ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DONATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED BUT, AT PRESENT TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT NO RPT NO FURTHER CONTRIBUTION (BEYOND 15,000 TONS ENVISAGED) IS REQUIRED ON OUR PART. ACCORDINGLY, WE SEE NO RPT NO PRESENT NEED TO OFFER ADDITIONAL 5,000 MT.

4. FIGURE OF 40,000 MT IN SOMALI HARVEST/PURCHASES CITED REF B IS DIFFICULT TO CONFIRM. IN VIEW OF ADEQUACY OF GRAIN PLEDGES FOR REFUGEE POPULATION, IT IS OF INTEREST ONLY INsofar AS IT RELIEVES THE PINCH FOR THE REST OF THE POPULATION. UN EXPERTS NOW BELIEVE THAT ONLY 10,000 MT IN GRAIN CAN BE PROVIDED FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS.

5. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW GSADR WILL MAKE UP GRAIN SHORTFALL FOR REMAINDER OF POPULATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ARE MEAGRE AND THAT FOREIGN GRANTS AND CREDITS -- PARTICULARLY FROM ARAB NATIONS -- HAVE FALLEN FAR BELOW EXPECTATIONS. SOME CASH CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS HOWEVER AND HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR DIRECT BUDGET SUPPORT AND TO RELIEVE ACUTE BOP PROBLEM. WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT THE TOTAL AMOUNTS. WHILE DIFFICULTIES MAY INCREASE IN MONTHS AHEAD FOR SOMALI CONSUMER, WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SHORTAGES IN SOME BASIC FOODSTUFFS OVER PAST 6 MONTHS, WE DO NOT RPT NOT FEEL THIS IS PROBLEM WHICH US SHOULD TACKLE.

KIRK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0848
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabzlc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 28192, 75 MOGADISCIO 1871, 75 DEC 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI FOOD REQUIREMENTS
TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SWEL, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006